

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 31st Year

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Long-time incumbent director Ed Metzger faces two challengers in Central Division

Balloting set in three ARRL divisions

Members in five ARRL divisions have nominated candidates for the positions of ARRL Director and Vice Director, and balloting is set for contested positions in three divisions. The ARRL Election Committee has reviewed the nominations and declared all of the candidates to be eligible. Where there is a single candidate for an office, the candidate has been declared elected. All terms are for three years beginning at noon January 1, 2001.

Balloting for Director will occur in the Central and Northwestern divisions; balloting for Vice Director in the Northwestern and Hudson divisions. Incumbents standing for re-election are unopposed in the New England and Roanoke divisions.

The nominees for ARRL Director and Vice Director in the affected divisions are:

Central Division (Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana)

Director: George R. Isely, W9GIG;
Richard David Klatzco, N9TQA;
Edmond A. Metzger, W9PRN

Vice Director: Howard Huntington, K9KM
(unopposed)

Hudson Division

Director: Frank Fallon, N2FF (unopposed)

Vice Director: J. P. Kleinhaus, W2XX;
Stephen A. Mendelsohn, W2ML

New England Division

Director: Tom Frenaye, K1KI (unopposed)

Vice Director: Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
(unopposed)

Northwestern Division

Director: Mary E. Lewis, W7QGP;
Greg Milnes, W7OZ

Vice Director: Edward W. Bruette, N7NVP;
Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF

Roanoke Division

Director: Dennis Bodson, W4PWF (unopposed)

Vice Director: Leslie J. Shattuck, K4NK
(unopposed)

Full members of record in the Central, Hudson and Northwestern divisions as of September 10, 2000, will be sent ballots by October 1. The deadline to receive completed ballots at ARRL Headquarters is noon Friday, November 17, when the votes will be counted.

Any ARRL member who is entitled to a ballot and who does not receive one by November 1 is urged to request a duplicate ballot from the Secretary, ARRL.

ARLB036, 8/28/2000

Understanding VECs and VEs

Though VECs and VEs have important—and sometimes visible—roles in the testing and licensing processes, their precise functions are not always understood.

The VEC program began in 1984. Up to that time nearly all examinations were held in FCC field offices. In the 1980s, the FCC expressed a willingness to turn over the licensing duties to authorized amateur radio operators. That authority was granted when the Communications Act was amended in 1983. From that action Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and Volunteer Examiners (VEs) were born.

VECs oversee and support the testing process. Among their many duties, they accredit VEs, provide testing materials, review graded material, file the test results, and assist in the development or revision of the test pool documents. From a peak of 39 in the 1980s, the number of VECs has declined to 14, where it stands today.

The task of administering and grading exams often falls to the VEs. These individuals must meet certain age and license class

requirements, and must be accredited by a VEC. (Other qualifications are spelled out in Part 97.)

VECs can be either large or small. The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club VEC, for example, is comprised of two people: John Kraak, KF9XL, and me. John typically has fewer than a dozen VEs assisting him at each session. Consequently, we tend to limit ourselves to one test session per month.

ARRL VEC and W5YI VEC staffs, on the other hand, are much larger, and each supports numerous VE teams across the country. Indeed, W5YI VEC supports VE teams in a number of foreign countries.

— TRF

**FCC:
RF exposure rules
are now in effect; all
amateurs must
comply.**

See page 4.

National Conference of VECs 2000

VECs adopt standards for Morse code exam

By Thomas R. Fuszard, KF9PU, MRAC VEC

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) agreed upon a standard format for Morse code testing at their recent national conference.

Held July 21 in historic Gettysburg, Pa., the conference brought together representatives of 11 of the nation's 14 VECs. While most of the day's discussion dealt with administrative matters, VECs did address the important issue of Morse code testing. The conference decided that:

- Morse code should be delivered using the Farnsworth method and at a character rate of 13 – 15 wpm.

- The multiple choice exam will no longer be used. Instead, examinees will be required to provide a one-word answer for each of the 10 questions. (Sometimes referred to as the "fill in the blank" method.) At least seven correct answers are required to pass.

- Examinees who fail the written exam can still pass by showing one minute of error-free copy in their notes.

Examiners may implement these changes at any time, but must do so by July 1, 2001. This deadline was chosen to give producers and retailers of code tapes sufficient time to change their stock.

In other business, the conference heard from a representative of the FCC on the commission's new registration system.

Known as CORES (for Commission Registration System), this system assigns an identification number to any person or entity conducting business with the FCC. Many hams are already aware of the license ID number generated under ULS (Universal Licensing System). That number is used exclusively in the wireless telecommunica-

tions bureau.

The CORES number, on the other hand, is used throughout the FCC. Often referred to as an FRN, for FCC registration number, this will eventually replace the license ID number issued under ULS.

According to Judy Dunlap, of the Data Management Division, all amateur radio operators who were registered under ULS when the CORES program went live on July 19 were issued a new federal registration number. She said letters were being sent to those individuals explaining the CORES program and providing the new FRN. Your existing password may be used with the new FRN, she said.

For now, amateur radio operators may continue registering their Social Security numbers under ULS. Doing so will generate both the license ID number and an FRN.

However, hams are highly encouraged to register for an FRN. Currently, use of the FRN is voluntary, Dunlap said, but is expected to become mandatory by summer of 2001.

For more information and to register, visit the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov, and click on the CORES registration link. Registration may also be done manually. To order a registration form, contact the FCC at 1-800-418-3676.

VE. VEC. These two "acronyms" are often used incorrectly. There is a real difference, and Tom tells us exactly what each one is and what each one does in his sidebar column at lower left on this page.

FLIPPING THE PAGES

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN and Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ	2
Updated ARRL Operating Manual - Rich Regent, K9GDF	4
The Computer Corner - Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR: No. 82 - Netscape and Privacy	6
Editorial - Netscape and "Privacy" - Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ	6
Wisconsin Nets Association	7
Quarter Century Wireless Association/Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	7
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	7
Lakeshore Repeater Association	8
Red Cedar Repeater Association	8
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	8
Racine Megacycle Club	9
Shuttle Atlantis takes supplies to ISS, first ham gear included	9
The Wisconsin Packeteer	10
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	11



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2000 W9DXCC Convention and banquet Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL
Web: <http://www.qth.com/w9dxc>

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2000
Peoria Swapfest 2000, Peoria, IL Contact: Peoria Superfest 2000, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612-3378. (309) 692-3378. Email: superfest@juno.com Web: <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2000
Radio Expo 2000 Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake IL
Contact: (708) 457-0966 Web: <http://www.chicagofinclub.org>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2000 Hamfest Minnesota
Saint Paul, MN Contact: P.O. Box 5598, Hopkins, MN 55343 (952) 535-0637

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2001 29th Annual Mid-winter Swapfest Waukesha Exposition Center Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club <http://www.warac.org>

FEBRUARY 27, 2001 Red Cedar Repeater Association
Auction American Legion Post 53 634 Water St., Eau Claire WI
Information: Steve Hart, KA9OMC (715) 665-2374

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2001 SEWFARS Swapfest

Waukesha Expo Center 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Setup starts at 6 a.m. Talkin: 146.82 PL 127.3 Reservation deadline: February 23, 2001 Info: (262) 835-7035

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2001 Wisconsin QSO Party
Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club <http://www.WARAC.org>

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2001 NS9RCfest Formerly LAMARSfest Lake County Fairgrounds Grayslake, IL
Sponsored by North Shore Radio Club, Box 1066, Highland Park IL 60035 <http://www.ns9rc.org>

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2001 Madison Swapfest Mandt Community Center 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton, WI
Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P.O. Box 8890, Madison WI 53708-8890 Info Line: (608) 245-8890

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001 Ozaukee Radio and Computer Swapfest 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Circle B Recreation Center, Intersection of Highway 60 and County Y Info: Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive Cedarburg, WI 53012

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2001 Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2001 Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire WI 54702-1867 Web: <http://www.ecarc.org> Email: w9eau@ecarc.org

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2001 Hamfest 01 South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club American Legion Park, Oak Creek Info: Verne at (414) 762-3235

As a service to our readers, this section is available without charge to list your upcoming swapfest, hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio

Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to kebnetter@palacenet.net.

CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot carry the complete listing of club meetings every month. Please see last month's BSSS for the latest complete listing. The following are changes and additions that have been reported to BSSS since that listing.

St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS
Hudson, WI Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome! Informal meetings held at the TA truck stop on Interstate 94 at the Roberts Exit (highway 65) Meetings (and breakfast) will start at approximately 8:15 am on Saturday mornings.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. kebnetter@palacenet.net

EDITOR: Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031. smokesigs@baraboo.com

TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscription Rate

1 year (12 issues) \$13.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

September 02, 2000 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
September 02, 2000 Racine, WI
September 02, 2000 St. Paul, MN
September 09, 2000 Appleton, WI
September 09, 2000 Blaine, MN
September 09, 2000 Madison, WI
September 14, 2000 Apple Valley, MN
September 16, 2000 Cottage Grove, MN
September 16, 2000 Loves Park, IL
September 16, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
September 16, 2000 Onalaska, WI
September 16, 2000 Sheboygan, WI
September 19, 2000 Eden Prairie, MN
September 23, 2000 Bloomington, MN
September 30, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
September 30, 2000 Tomahawk, WI
October 07, 2000 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 07, 2000 Racine, WI
October 07, 2000 Eau Claire, WI
October 07, 2000 St. Paul, MN
October 12, 2000 Apple Valley, MN
October 14, 2000 Blaine, MN
October 14, 2000 Eau Claire, WI
October 14, 2000 Madison, WI
October 17, 2000 Eden Prairie, MN
October 21, 2000 Cottage Grove, MN
October 21, 2000 Loves Park, IL
October 21, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
October 28, 2000 Bloomington, MN
October 28, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 28, 2000 Tomahawk, WI
November 04, 2000 Menomonie, WI
November 04, 2000 Onalaska, WI
November 04, 2000 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 04, 2000 Racine, WI
November 04, 2000 St. Paul, MN
November 05, 2000 Kaukauna, WI
November 11, 2000 Blaine, MN
November 11, 2000 Madison, WI
November 14, 2000 Apple Valley, MN
November 18, 2000 Cottage Grove, MN
November 18, 2000 Loves Park, IL
November 18, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
November 21, 2000 Eden Prairie, MN
November 21, 2000 Sheboygan, WI
November 25, 2000 Bloomington, MN
November 25, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)

November 25, 2000 Tomahawk, WI
 December 02, 2000 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 December 02, 2000 Racine, WI
 December 02, 2000 St. Paul, MN
 December 02, 2000 Eau Claire, WI
 December 09, 2000 Blaine, MN
 December 09, 2000 Madison, WI
 December 14, 2000 Apple Valley, MN
 December 16, 2000 Cottage Grove, MN
 December 16, 2000 Loves Park, IL
 December 16, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 December 19, 2000 Eden Prairie, MN
 December 23, 2000 Bloomington, MN
 January 27, 2001 Appleton, WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI
 (except January, July & August)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 (September through April)
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
 Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN
 Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 (except December)
 Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
 (January thru October only)
 Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
 (Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)
 plus annual summer hamfest.)

Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Get your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>
 or
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.65 payable to "ARRL/VEC". Exam fees change annually. See QST, WIAW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2.

Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2000 test fee at \$6.65. A \$6.65 fee will be collected from applicants seeking to upgrade using a physician's certification to waive the Morse code examination.

FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database.

Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB (MRAC/VEC) MILWAUKEE

Last Saturday, except June, July, and August, 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797- MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.65 for the exam fee. Walk-ins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Every third Saturday morning, September through April, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, Milwaukee. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

EAU CLAIRE, WI

October 7, December 2, 2000. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. South Middle School, 2115 Mitschners Avenue, Eau Claire, WI. Information: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY, (715) 839-6509 or ka9omy@aarl.net Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

FRIENDSHIP, WI

Saturday, October 7, 2000. Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, Community room, 401 E. Lake Street (CTH J), Friendship, WI. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. local time. Walk-ins welcome, repeat exams as time permits upon payment of additional fee. Sponsor: Adams County Amateur Radio Club. Contacts: Wayne Hembrook, KB9LNQ, (608) 339-4169, email kb9lnq@maqs.net or Karl Simonson, KS9E, (847) 244-0802, email ks9e@usa.com.

MADISON, WI

First Saturday monthly: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space Place, 1605 South Park Street, Madison. Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and a check for \$6.65 made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me. Dates: September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, 2000, and January 6, 2001. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwinka, WO9U, at (608) 233-9829 (home phone) or sent to wo9u@arrl.net.

MENOMONIE, WI

November 4, 2000: The Menomonie area hams will conduct VE exams for all classes of licenses. The location will be the U.W.-Stout Communications Center, 820 South Broadway, Menomonie Wisconsin. Walk-ins only. Arrive between 9 and 11 a.m. For information, contact Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 235-3998 (H), or (715) 232-1397 (W).

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (262) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No advance registration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

SHEBOYGAN, WI

Saturday, September 16: 8:30 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. testing. Tuesday, November 21: 6:30 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. testing. All sessions will be held in the Red Cross building, 2023 Erie Avenue, in the main level classroom area. This testing site is handicapped/wheelchair accessible. Pre-registration is appreciated so we don't get caught short of forms and examinations, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, N8029 Willow Road, Plymouth, WI 53073-2929. (920) 876-2370. K9XJ e-mail: <k9xj@excel.net>

ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

September 16 and November 4. The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0723.

MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Saturday, September 16. Sponsored by the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club. Testing for all classes, Novice through Extra. Registration starts 8:30 a.m., testing starts 9 a.m. Location: The community meeting/conference room in the lower level of the Sheriff's Department annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI.

Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park on the street or in the parking lot on the south side of the courthouse. Use one of the two entrances there. Watch for the signs when you get into the building. Talk-in on the 147.15 (+600 kHz, 114.8 PL) repeater. Walk-ins welcome, but if you know you'll be attending, please let us know. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054. E-mail: Mike, N9GHZ, muzikman@pcpros.net.

PEWAUKEE, WI (ARRL/VEC)

First Saturday in months school is in session. Exams held at Waukesha County Technical College Science Building. WCTC is on Highway JJ off Hwy 16 from the East I-94 and Hwy T from West I-94 just north of GE Medical Systems. Handicapped parking is at the rear of the building. Tests start at 9 a.m. and registration ends at 10 a.m. Contact: Al Johnson, AA7CS, (920) 568-0836, email aa7cs@arrl.net; Roger Bradley, AA9OJ, (262) 691-3089 or SEWFARS Repeater club, c/o Jam Lazachek, KF9GG (262) 650-0724.

Thanks Al Johnson, AA7CS

HUDSON, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsor: St. Croix Valley AR Testing Col. Time: Call for time and walk-in info, Contact: Gregory Miller (715)386-9857 Location: St. Croix County Emergency, Government Center by jail, Carmichael Rd. lower level, Hudson, WI 54016. (Information tnx ARRL Web site)

HAMFEST EXAMS

Cedarburg WI - ORC Hamfest
 Green Bay WI - ARES Hamfest
 Hayward WI - Hayward Hamfest
 Kaukauna WI - Swapfest
 Manitowoc WI - Lakeshore Hamfest
 Oak Creek WI - SMARC Hamfest
 Rhinelander WI - NWARC Swapfest
 Rockford IL - RARC Hamfest
 Rothschild WI - WVRA Hamfest

(continued on page 11)

RF safety rules now in force for all amateurs

The time has come! Starting Friday, September 1, every US amateur was required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines.

The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of September 1, all amateurs must comply.

Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation. MPEs are both frequency and power-dependent.

"These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, the League's point man on RF exposure issues. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need

to conduct a simple station evaluation."

By and large, the FCC has put hams on the honor system, but compliance with the RF exposure rules is not optional.

"Even aside from the fact that every US amateur is required to follow the RF safety regulations, amateurs owe it to themselves, their families, their neighbors, and the general public to follow the FCC guidelines to the letter," said ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, in urging compliance.

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/>. The site also contains resources to make your station evaluation quite painless.

The topic of RF exposure and safety also has been covered extensively in *QST* (see "FCC RF-Exposure Regulations--the Station Evaluation" by Ed Hare, W1RFI, January 1998 *QST*). Hare also wrote the standard Amateur Radio reference on the topic of RF exposure, *RF Exposure and You*, published by the ARRL. The book is aimed at answering all questions about meeting the FCC RF

Updated ARRL Operating Manual

Richard Regent, K9GDF

Bigger and better than ever, the 2000 *ARRL Operating Manual* has just been published and is now available for \$25. This 7th Edition has everything for the active ham. Over 400 pages describe all modes, activities, bands and includes a separate *Ham Desktop Reference* booklet.

Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, the *Manual's* Editor, just sent me a free copy in appreciation for the rewrite I did of my Emergency Communications Chapter (Chapter 8). I've been periodically revising this Chapter since I wrote it 15 years ago. There were some major changes for this revision.

Of exciting interest in the Emergency Communications Chapter is that Wisconsin

Amateurs of the OZARES (Ozaukee County ARES) group have two action photos and extensive captions included. One photo shows a 40-foot rescue boat with Captain Jack Morrison, N9SFG. The other photo captures Ray Meyer, N9PBY, 9-year old Jason Raasch, N9NNB, and octogenarian Gordon Hepburn, N9NLY, operating rigs at an OZARES training session. The photos and captions were provided by our Section Emergency Coordinator, Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR.

If you do any operating or think that you would like to learn more about operating, buy the handy new *ARRL Operating Manual* and another for your club. Then, please let me know what you think. □

exposure regulations. It includes simple step-by-step worksheets for hams to use to help determine if their stations comply with the rules--and, if not, how to correct the problem. (RF Exposure and You is \$15. Order item #6621 from ARRL.)

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, ehare@arrl.org. - *The ARRL Letter*

SELL, SWAP, BUY

1. Bud Radio Company 35 inch deluxe rack cabinet (black crackle finish) on casters.
2. Clegg FM-27B, two meter transceiver (with internal adjustable sub-audible SS-64 tone encoder), Clegg 011 power supply, ptt mic. Manuals and instruction sheet.
3. National model CRU, 2 inch oscilloscope with manual.
4. AEA PK232 MBX data controller, cables and power supply.
5. Novotel 9600 baud fax modem with Quick Link fax program software.
6. Autek Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM filter with instructions sheet.
7. Dataswitch, A, B, C, and D positions.
8. Kris model 823-126, SWR and field strength meter.
9. Heathkit V-7A, VTVM with cables.
10. Panasonic 200 ohm small hand held dynamic mic.
11. Shur-Lok, disappearing (trunk) antenna mount.
12. T.R.McElroy audio oscillator.
13. James Millen 2.75 inch, 0-100 metal vernier dials with position locks.
14. Tandy, model 26-2814 dot matrix script and graphics printer with cable and manual.
15. Kenwood, TR2500, 2 meter HT with mobile holder, two PB25 batteries, charger, PTT, mic and instruction manual, internal 100 Hz subaudible factory preset tone.

All this equipment is in first class shape and working condition. Anyone interested can call me at (262) 334 3032 or via e-mail at cw80@juno.com.

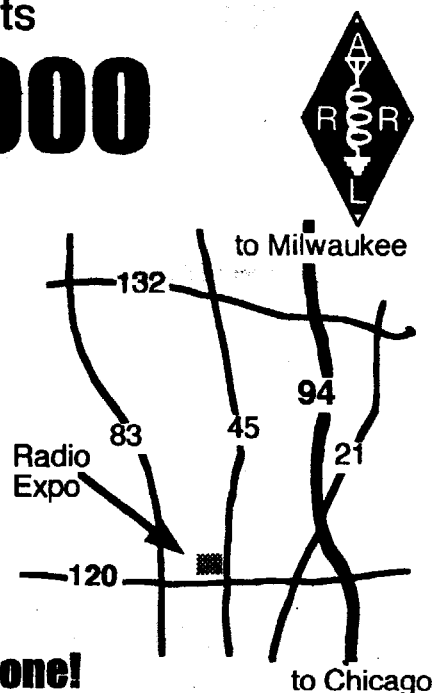
Rip, W9SIZ

W40RC/R



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Sun 8 AM to 3 PM

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Remember to send a #10 size(business) self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

**In the ARRL Central Division,
vote for a "Hands-On" director:**

**✓ George R. Isely,
W9GIG**

I am honored to be nominated for Central Division Director. If elected, I will respond - using Email whenever possible - to those having questions about, or

problems with, our all-encompassing hobby known as the Amateur Radio Service. I will do all I can to promote the following activities by the ARRL:



- **Improve the recruitment of young people into Amateur Radio.**
- **Lobby for spectrum protection legislation.**
- **Work to keep local government out of RFI legislation.**
- **Foster increased spectrum usage.**
- **Expand PRB-1 to cover property covenants and restrictions.**
- **Provide more assistance in defending our ability to erect effective towers and antennas.**
- **Continue supporting pro-active FCC rules enforcement.**
- **Develop and support Amateur Radio education.**

Personal information: University of Missouri graduate; retired professional pilot, U.S. Navy and American Airlines, licensed in 1977 as WD9GIG (Advanced Class), now W9GIG (Extra Class).

Amateur Radio Organizations: Fox River Radio League member for 23 years serving in numerous capacities, life member of ARRL, AMSAT, and 10-10 International; Society of Midwest Contesters member. I helped organize the Illinois Repeater Association in 1986, continuous service in various jobs; Mid-America Coordination Council President for 5 years; helped organize the National Frequency Coordinators' Council, served four years as director performing jobs ranging

from secretary to president.

Amateur Radio operating activities: DXCC; active HF contester; one of few with confirmed 2-way SSTV contact with Space Shuttle; co-designer of dual-band helical satellite antenna; active in public service communications; early user of computer-control of radio equipment; early packet radio user; active in ATV, SSTV at various times.

If you have questions or want to help in my campaign, please contact me at (630) 584-3510, or Email to

dick@pobox.com.

Q S Y to W 9 G I G

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 82: NETSCAPE AND PRIVACY

[I received an incredibly important email message on 13 July from Gibson Research Corporation. GRC is Steve Gibson's company, which produces SpinRite and other great products. SpinRite has been on my "must have" list for well over 10 years, and I am an avid reader of Steve's excellent writings on a number of topics. I highly recommend his products, and his website (<http://grc.com>). Internet security has been a major topic of Steve's writings lately, and his recent message is so important that I asked for and received permission to reprint it here. The original message, titled "The NetZip, Netscape/AOL, and Real Networks Download Utilities *ARE* Spying On Us!" was sent as their July 2000 newsletter. So here it is.]

Before I tell you about this latest threat to our privacy, I MUST ASK YOU PLEASE not to reply directly to this email. This mailing is being sent to more than 320,000 people, so there is JUST NO WAY for us to read and answer individual questions.

However, we have created a FREE DISCUSSION FORUM you are invited to use for asking questions and getting more information. Any standard Internet newsreader -- like those included in Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator -- can be used to participate in the free discussion forums at grc.com. Just navigate to: news://grc.com/newsletter and begin participating.

Or, if that doesn't work, you can access the forum through our web-based interface (though it is much less cool.) <http://grc.com/newsletter.htm>.

A serious new Spyware threat

NetZip's "Download Demon" was purchased by Real Networks and renamed "Real Download." Then Netscape/AOL licensed it from Real and called it "Netscape Smart Download."

By watching the "packet traffic" flowing in and out of one of my machines while downloading a file through the Internet, I verified the rumors which you may have heard regarding these programs: All of these programs immediately tag your computer with a unique ID, after which EVERY SINGLE FILE you download from ANYWHERE on the Internet (even places that might not be anyone else's business) is immediately reported back to the program's source where it is logged and recorded along with your machine's unique ID. They also have the opportunity to capture and record your machine's unique Internet IP address.

This information is then compiled and used to create a detailed "profile" about who you are based upon the web sites you visit and the files you have downloaded.

Perhaps you don't mind being watched and tracked as you move around the Internet ... and then having every file you download logged and cataloged and used to assemble "your profile." But the idea of this seems extremely invasive to me, and unless you have carefully read the program's license you might not be aware that this is going on or that "you agreed to it" when you accepted the terms of the license!

More than 14 Million people are already using the original NetZip Download Demon. NetZip knows the exact number, since every copy of their program "phones home" to report on what their users are doing! And I'm sure people are downloading Real Network's RealDownload and Netscape's SmartDownload like crazy.

A Class Action lawsuit was recently filed against Netscape/AOL because of this privacy invasion, so perhaps the PC industry will begin to receive the message that this sort of secret spying and profiling is not okay with the rest of us, even if it is buried within a lengthy license agreement. You decide.

And, of course, the next release of my own OptOut spyware detection and removal utility WILL consider these programs to be dangerous, and warn its users of their presence in their systems. But I wanted to be sure that you knew RIGHT AWAY what was going on, and that I had independently confirmed that this invasive file download tracking really was occurring.

[Incredible! I used to like to support Netscape in any way I could because I considered them the "underdog" in the Netscape/Internet Explorer competition, and a bunch of good

folks who were trying to do a good job. That image just flew out my window. Now I am beginning to think that IE is the lesser of two evils! So, here is my advertisement.]

"WANTED: A browser. Must be reasonably fast and very stable. Must protect my privacy. Must not transmit any information concerning me or my computing habits to anyone without my express, explicit permission. Must have a "no cookie" switch. Must work well with ZoneAlarm and other Internet firewalls. Must be sold by a company that is honest as a corporation as well as being made up of individuals who are honest. No subterfuge permitted. No selling of lists permitted. No spam permitted. No profiling permitted. Willing to pay. Willing to pay."

Happy computing!

Stan

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, *Ozaukee Radio Club (Ted Schweizer, KB9RLI, Editor, 126 Lilac Lane, Belgium, WI 53004. <theo@execpc.com>).*

Netscape/AOL snooping: Is it really happening?

While formatting and reading the Computer Corner column for this issue, I became curious. Having already read and paid attention to Stan's column about four issues back about covert Internet spying, and thus having installed and activated ZoneAlarm on my own system, I knew that yes, covert snoops are common. Since Stan's column this month deals specifically with this behavior by Netscape/AOL, I thought "Well, what better place to test what this month's column says than Netscape's own home site?" I expected a snoop or two, but what happened stunned even me.

When I logged onto their site, I was banged with several immediate covert tries. I went poking randomly around the offerings on my screen from the Netscape site. With only two exceptions, covert probes came with every change from one Netscape area to another. Some were layered four deep.

Nearly all the probes traced back to Netscape except a few, and those few traced to AOL. At two locations on the Netscape site, I was asked to set a cookie, which is basically an overt (up-front, in your face) snoop. I don't do cookies. The screen said:

Missing Cookie

Your request could not be served, possibly because you have your browser cookies disabled. Please enable cookies in your browser's settings, close your current web session and try again.

For instructions on how to change your cookies settings, please click on the following link:

- [Guide for Enabling Cookies](#)

No, I did not enable cookies. I don't do cookies. Netscape thus takes hypocrisy to a high level. While they asked me to set cookies twice, my firewall caught them trying a lot more covert snoops into my system. It remained interesting after I returned to my home site, baraboo.com. Netscape followed me and made another four tries.

Then, to top off the most "interesting" 25 minutes I ever spent on the web, I did lookups on the addresses from which the covert snoops originated. Netscape popped up its little screen that warns the Netscape user that any data transmitted is not secure!

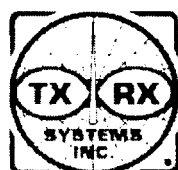
Here is the actual ZoneAlarm log from my test of the Netscape web site:

```
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:41:14 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.24:80,156.46.152.22:1247,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:44:56 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.230:80,156.46.152.22:1280,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:46:54 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.232:80,156.46.152.22:1298,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:46:56 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.242:80,156.46.152.22:1300,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:47:38 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.24:80,156.46.152.22:1305,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:48:36 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.49:80,156.46.152.22:1323,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:50:52 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.240:80,156.46.152.22:1380,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:50:52 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.233:80,156.46.152.22:1381,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:51:34 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.49:80,156.46.152.22:1402,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:51:52 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.175:80,156.46.152.22:1417,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:52:26 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.9:80,156.46.152.22:1421,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:53:50 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.24:80,156.46.152.22:1438,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:54:32 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.49:80,156.46.152.22:1444,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:55:04 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.10:80,156.46.152.22:1448,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:55:44 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.9:80,156.46.152.22:1460,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:57:04 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.10:80,156.46.152.22:1469,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:57:44 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.10:80,156.46.152.22:1476,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:58:16 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.24:80,156.46.152.22:1494,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,19:59:30 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.48:80,156.46.152.22:1528,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:00:00 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.49:80,156.46.152.22:1538,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:00:18 -6:00 GMT,205.188.140.167:80,156.46.152.22:1551,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:00:20 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.9:80,156.46.152.22:1421,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:01:44 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.24:80,156.46.152.22:1438,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:02:26 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.49:80,156.46.152.22:1444,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:02:58 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.10:80,156.46.152.22:1448,TCP
FWIN,2000/08/09,20:03:38 -6:00 GMT,207.200.75.9:80,156.46.152.22:1460,TCP
```

The bottom line of all this is the almighty dollar. Money talks, and if Netscape/AOL (and a lot of other companies) can make money by profiling Internet users, they won't stop this practice. It's unlikely that federal legislation outlawing covert snooping would be of much use. This practice is not legal in some countries (it's apparently OK in France, as I got hit with two from there this afternoon), but it's quite legal elsewhere. If the U.S. outlawed the practice of data mining and profiling, the companies who want that data would simply have it gathered outside this country. It is by definition the worldwide web.

Have a firewall up and running all the time you are on the Internet. Keep the firewall up to date, as spyware-creating companies will write ways around firewalls. And the race is on.

- Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ



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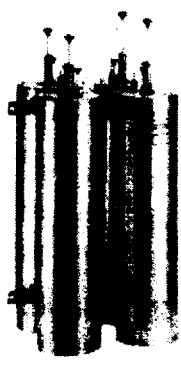
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Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2230	1730	WB9WHQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	KB9OCZ
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61	0030	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT) (Menomonee Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0245	2145	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0200	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
RACES	No	3993.5	1400	0900	WA9OAY
(LSB Sunday)					

July 2000
Section Traffic Manager's Report
Wisconsin Section

Don't forget the WNA Picnic Sunday,
September 17 at Galecki Park in Plover!

What Separates a Traffic Handler

The diversity of Amateur Radio is one of the best features of the hobby. If you're into EME or Dxing, ragchewing or PSK, public service

events or repeaters, contesting or experimenting -- there's a part in hamming for you. If you enjoy the challenge of fighting adverse conditions in order to communicate, or get a real charge out of doing something good for someone else, Amateur Radio gives that opportunity. If getting to know and appreciate other operators is satisfying to you, that human interest aspect is available. There's something for everyone. So what makes a Ham who's a traffic handler different?

Nothing. That's right. Anyone in Ham Radio can find satisfaction in contributing as a traffic

handler. Traffic handling has the same challenges as dxing, contesting, or fighting bad conditions. It requires the same careful listening, efficiency, and cooperation among stations. It can be done with any mode and good traffic handlers often experiment with their equipment or operation to make it more reliable and efficient. Traffic handlers provide a public service as well as train for future emergencies. Hams who handle traffic get to know other operators well and share their interests and feelings.

There are a few small differences in emphasis. More DX-chasers could add to the pile-ups; more traffic handlers make the system work better. The point to be made with those entering the hobby is that handling traffic, net participation, is simply one of those things that hams should do -- because it's a service and because it's fun.

Every ham is a potential traffic handler. We're not so different after all.

73 - K9LGU /STM

MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY July 2000

NET	QMI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1166	1584	2325	31	W9IHW for W9RCW
BEN	360	52	645	30	KE9VU
WSBN	448	47	736	28	WB9WHQ
WNN	114	13	344	31	KB9ROB
WSSN	167	24	286	31	N9BDL
WIN/E	194	71	271	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	176	52	310	31	W9UW
TOTALS	2625	1843	4927	212	

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY - JULY 2000

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
W9RCW	0	439	31	437	907-BPL

K9JPS	1	407	25	383	816-BPL
W9IHW	0	384	36	332	672-BPL
W9YPY	0	259	298	0	549-BPL
K9GU	0	248	32	234	514-BPL
N9TVT	0	94	311	0	405
W9CBE	0	59	74	2	135
K9FHI	0	33	76	1	110
W27V	0	41	25	39	105
N9BDL	0	20	65	0	85
AG9G	0	17	61	0	78
K9LGU	1	50	19	1	71
N9CK	5	33	33	0	71
KE9VU	0	26	33	0	71
N9KHD	0	27	38	1	66
W9YCV	1	17	32	6	56
KA9FVX	0	0	45	0	45
KB9ROB	0	34	4	3	41
AA9BB	0	5	33	0	38
W9BHL	0	3	33	1	37
W9UW	0	29	4	0	33
K9HDF	0	0	28	0	28
WB9ICH	0	20	2	0	22
WD9FLJ	3	2	6	2	13
KA9BHK	0	1	11	0	12
W9ODV	0	0	5	0	5
K9UTQ	0	0	3	0	3
K9UTQ(June)	0	0	3	0	3
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1

P S H R SUMMARY July 2000

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TL
W9RCW	42	0	0	437	0	30	0	0	509
K9JPS	43	21	12	383	1	10	0	0	470
K9FHI	60	24	24	1	0	30	0	30	169
WD9FLJ	43	0	24	2	3	20	30	30	152
N9BDL	60	24	24	0	0	30	0	0	138
W9YCV	60	24	24	6	1	20	0	0	135
K9LGU	60	24	24	1	1	20	0	0	130
W9CBE	60	24	24	2	0	20	0	0	130
N9TVT	60	24	24	0	0	10	0	0	118
AG9G	60	24	18	0	0	10	0	0	112
KA9FVX	60	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	70

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



Thanks to the effort of our technical committee, Gene Haney, WB9ZKY and Pete Kinzelman, N9KGG, the new controller for our two-meter machine has been installed with the club's new call sign - KR9RK. The controller will identify the repeater utilizing CW and reset each transmission with our normal single tone courtesy beep. The auto patch will remain off pending a need to modify this decision. Past history has demonstrated that individuals in our coverage area cannot resist the urge to access law enforcement agencies via the patch without identification and unable or unwilling to dump the system. Our local dispatchers do not have the time nor the desire to play these silly games with our community's Lids. A sub-audible tone (PL) is currently not needed and will not be utilized at this time.

We are still trying to work out the details for the installation of our 70-cm repeater's antenna on

a new tower located along the Racine and Kenosha County's border. At this writing we are waiting for the tower owner's written lease agreement. When approved and signed, we will install the antenna, feed line and repeater. I personally am waiting that moment with bated breath.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 24 October 2000 (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at the Red Cross Building in Racine, beginning at 7:30 PM. This is the Repeater's last meeting of the year and the evening we elect next year's club officers. I have appointed Paul Smedegaard, N9RGW, as the nomination's chair. Paul has submitted the following slate of candidates for your approval: For President, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO; for Vice President, Dave Whitham, K9DQ; for Secretary, Fern Fisher, W9LCJ; and for Treasurer, Bob Jensen, W0WLN. Dan Miller, KA9OIL will remain as our Club Trustee. If you wish to be



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Sky Borkenhagen, N9XRU, Secretary
N6466 Plank Circle • Glenbeulah WI 53023

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The August meeting was called to order by club President Steve, N9TRK, at 7:00 p.m. local time. There were 10 members present at the meeting.

The SCARC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month in the Red Cross building at

considered for one of the elected positions or nominate someone else, please contact N9RGW directly or make the nomination from the floor during the election on the 24th of October. Nominees from the floor must be able to affirm their acceptance of the nomination.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, President

2032 Erie Avenue in Sheboygan.

The first topic discussed was the upcoming annual Plank Road Trail Classic event that is taking place on Saturday August 26. Plans were made, available sites, operating positions, times, equipment etc., were discussed.

The club Treasurer, Mike, K9SJ, reminded members that dues are due in for the 2000-2001 year. The amount of dues still coming in during the meeting made an exact balance at present unobtainable.

At 7:20 Steve, N9TRK, announced it was break time. Members enjoyed desserts and refreshments.

Please turn to page 8

SSB

SELL SWAP BUY

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40 - 6M BEAMS FOR SALE: Sommer Antennas models XP-508 and XP-708 beams for sale. These are log-periodics optimized for the 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meter ham bands. The XP-508 has a 15 foot boom. The XP-708 has a 20 ft. boom consisting of a single piece of aluminum, so it does not need support from above. Because they have full-size elements, they are more broad-banded than trapped-element antennas. Further details can be obtained from Sommer's Web page:

<http://www.sommerantennas.com>

The antennas are located in Milwaukee, WI.

Rick Kissell, WB9GYT, rkissell@execpc.com
(414) 643-8039

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1 Year: \$13.95

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Name: _____ Call Sign (if any): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Ken Ebner, 822 Wauona Trail, Wauona, WI 53901.

Please do NOT send cash!

SEPTEMBER 2000

Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 7

At 7:30 the meeting resumed with further detailed plans on the basement radio room. Lay-out, wiring project work times etc., were discussed.

Mike, K9SJ concluded the meeting with a technical segment on antenna stacking and answered questions any members had on this subject.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. local time.

Net Schedule

The SCARC 2 Meter net meets Monday nights at 8:00 pm. local time on 147.060, PL107.2 + . This is a fun net, and all are welcome to join us. Any members willing to take net control for one or more weeks can contact Steve, N9TRK for scheduling.

Breakfasts

The Saturday morning Sheboygan Hams breakfasts are held at 8:00 a.m. in the following venues:

1st - Jumes in Sheboygan

2nd - Family Restaurant in Cleveland

3rd - Jumping Jacks at Kohler Sports Core

4th - Park View Restaurant, County PP in Sheboygan Falls

5th - Hill Farm Restaurant, County V and OK in Sheboygan

Email Lists

If you use e-mail, consider signing up on the Sheboygan Hams mailing list. Simply submit your e-mail address to: <julian@bongo.tele.com>.

All e-mail sent to <shebham@tele.com> will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks, N6ARE, for providing this mail server for SCARC use!

Club mailing address

SCARC, PO. Box 1282, Sheboygan, WI 53081-1282

Respectfully Submitted:
Sky Borgenhagen,
N9XRU

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

Meeting Minutes
5 September 2000

KB9RXA, KB9RXB, N9IAB, N9NRC, N9TTA,
KB9LLV, KB9STB, KB9MCZ.

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by President Kim Kunze, N9SDL.

Program: "PSK 31 or DigiPan", by Kim Kunze, N9SDL.

Members present: N9SDL, W9WW, N9-NMH, KB9DED, N9SDI, N9LIA, KB9DZG, KB9FRB, KB9VBR, N9NRA, N9PHC, N3FDE,

Treasurer's report was approved NRA, 2nd KB9STB. Correction from la minutes, there was no treasurer's report

Secretary absent, no report.

Continued on page 9



Lakeshore Repeater Association

147.270 MHz • Racine, Wisconsin

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO • 5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402-9741
wa9jmo@wi.net

Thanks to the effort of our technical committee, Gene Haney, WB9ZKY and Pete Kinzelman, N9-KGG, the new controller for our two-meter machine has been installed with the club's new call sign - KR9RK. The controller will identify the repeater utilizing CW and reset each transmission with our normal single tone courtesy beep. The auto patch will remain off pending a need to modify this decision. Past history has demonstrated that individuals in our coverage area cannot resist the urge to access law enforcement agencies via the patch without identification and unable or unwilling to dump the system. Our local dispatchers do not have the time nor the desire to play these silly games with our community's Lids. A sub-audible tone (PL) is currently not needed and will not be utilized at this time.

We are still trying to work out the details for the installation of our 70-cm repeater's antenna on a new tower located along the Racine and Kenosha County's border. At this writing we are waiting for the tower owner's written lease agreement. When approved and signed, we will install the antenna,

feed line and repeater. I personally am waiting that moment with bated breath.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 24 October 2000 (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at the Red Cross Building in Racine, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This is the Repeater's last meeting of the year and the evening we elect next year's club officers. I have appointed Paul Smedegaard, N9RGW, as the nomination's chair. Paul has submitted the following slate of candidates for your approval: For President, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO; for Vice President, Dave Whitham, K9DQ; for Secretary, Fern Fisher, W9LCJ; and for Treasurer, Bob Jensen, W0WLN. Dan Miller, KA9OIL will remain as our Club Trustee. If you wish to be considered for one of the elected positions or nominate someone else, please contact N9RGW directly or make the nomination from the floor during the election on the 24th of October. Nominees from the floor must be able to affirm their acceptance of the nomination.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
President

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA members and guests.

Hope to see you all at the first fall social hour on September 26. We are getting anxious to hear about your summer trips and operating activities. Meeting place is the Peppermill Restaurant in the L-Mart Shopping Center, 1414 9th Street, Menomonie. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

NX9F, Jim Ley, has helped organize the Tin Man Triathlon race in Menomonie for many years. This year, the Optimist Club that sponsors the race has decided to use cell phones at the check points instead of Amateur Radio operators on the larger routes. Jim reports that a few hams were used at the beach area.

Words cannot describe our feelings at the loss of our club director and friend, NQ9X, Ed van Sickle, who became silent on June 23 at Tomah Veterans Center. His day usually started with a call on the repeater about 10 a.m., and he then made his rounds to the Winona, LaCrosse, and Hixton repeaters and many others to which he belonged.

At noon, he often checked into the Badger Emergency Net and later the Wisconsin Sideband Net for traffic to the local area. Ed had been active in MARS, and was Emergency Coordinator for Trempealeau County. He recently reflected that despite his handicap, he was able to put the first lights atop the 90-foot poles at the Whitehall ball field, wearing steel leg braces.

In his time of employment he also placed many of the first television antennas on the old

farm windmill towers. Ed recalled that one of the helpers on the windmill tower was frightened to come down and that he had to go up and get him down.

Before his trip to VA for surgery, he remarked about his time he had at the Eau Claire Vocational School after returning from WW II. "I really enjoyed having breakfast at school with my instructor, W9SLT, Clare Bradford." Ed was a "ham's ham", always there.

KB9NMR, Bill Kramer, has returned to the area and says this feels more like home. Welcome home, Bill!

KB9SGY, David Garnett at Eau Claire, spent a week at Courage Center at Lake George in Golden Valley, Minnesota. Dave studied for the Extra Class and operated marine mobile on 15 meters. Classes lasted most of the day, and the group visited in the cafeteria in the evenings. Also attending were some of those seeing eye German Shepherds. Dave says, "They were really neat."

KB9TLV, John McDonald at Cumberland, recently worked his 49th state on six meters. Signal reports were 5/2.

The Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club will sponsor ham radio classes starting September 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. Class fee is \$25, which includes supplies. Contact KG9RA, Jim Staatz, at (715) 838-9108.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer

Late again - and other things

• Yes, this issue is another late one, for which we apologize. Among the reasons are a laser printer that needed to be taken out for service (the entire fuser assembly needed to be replaced at a cost of over \$200.00), and a recurring illness that seeks and finds me with unerring accuracy and regularity. Problem is, it has acquired a third trait: it is worse (more frequent) and is getting more difficult to chase out after it takes up residence. We shall make every effort to get back to "normal" as quickly as possible. We also ask that you take into consideration that the entire production staff of the printed edition consists of two volunteers.

• Two other problems are: (1) We need more articles, photos and stories. Funny, it is either feast or famine here. This month's issue is a good example of famine. (2) Yes, we indeed are short of money. An application for a grant is being prepared, but that will require time, as it must be correctly written if we are to succeed. Oddly, if each subscriber sent ten bucks to reduce the debt owed, we'd be nearly out of that debt. But we shall write for the grant. We are not paid, but the printer and postal service don't work free. And, production adds more cost.

The foundation to which we are applying may need considerable time to evaluate the application. This is a guess only, but it could very well take six months before we know one way or the other.

• Finally, to our loyal readers across Wisconsin and in a lot of other places, thank you for your loyalty and for your help. Our readers are the best. There are even a few who have occupied an editor's chair at one time or another and therefore know what this is like. Sadly, we lost one of those supporters earlier this year. But at least he still does understand what the "big chair" means.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, Editor

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Continued from page 8

Old Business

1. New tower and equipment update: The new equipment might be installed within the next 2-4 weeks. N9IAB is clearing up the confusion regarding the hardline size - we are replacing the old 7/8 inch line with new 7/8 inch line.

2. Weather Net: Last month KB9DZG suggested the club sponsor weather nets. The WVRA Board decided against duplicating the efforts that already performed by the Rib Mountain Repeater Association (146.82). Rich - KC9NW was encouraged to contact Phil - KB9DZG.

3. Visitor's Bureau Grant update: N9WPH finalized the proposal and sent it to Wayne, N9-NRC, for delivery to the committee. Wayne expects the committee to meet sometime this month.

New Business

1. Tech class - members were asked to find out the level of interest in the community for a class this year. The should forward the info to a board member before the next board meeting in two weeks or email Kim Kunze at N9SDL@arrl.netN9SDL.

2. KB9VBR volunteered to replace N9IAB on the WVRA Board. He will assume the duties of Net Controller.

3. Halloween Patrol - there was enough interest among the members to conduct this annual event. N9NMH will act as the coordinator. Please contact him if you were not present at the meeting and want to help.

4. Auction will be held in November. Members agreed upon a minimum 10% donation. The club has a tower, 6M tuner with SWR meter, Hallicrafters transmitter, and an analog meter to be sold off.

5. Phil, KB9DZG, wants off the Wednesday night nets. Myron, KB9STB, volunteered to fill Phil's position as Net control on the 1st Wednesday of the month. The club still needs a volunteer to be Net Control for the 5th Wednesday of the month when they occur.

6. ARES Help. A county level problem. The club wants to submit a petition to the EOC to call in all groups. WVRA Board will discuss the matter further at the next board meeting and will invite Rich Maier, KC9NW, to the meeting.

7. Mike, KB9DED, mentioned the availability of 10 foot satellite dishes for sale.

8. Mike, KB9VBR, passed around handout - Riley Hollingsworth's 10 Personal Suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. 1st W9WW, 2nd - N9LIA.

Next meeting 10/03/00. Program: To be announced.

Respectfully submitted:

Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH, WVRA Secretary

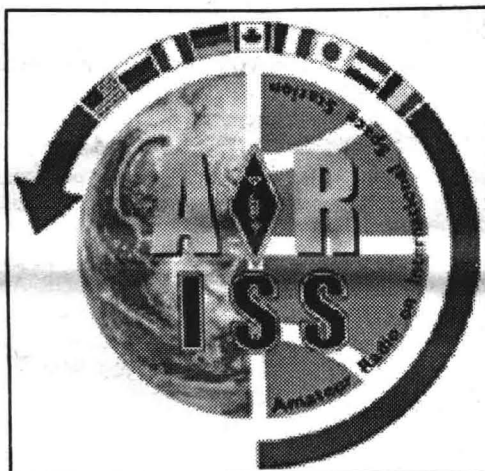
Atlantis ferrying initial ARISS ham gear into space

The space shuttle Atlantis blasted off on schedule September 8, bringing Amateur Radio operation from the International Space Station a giant leap closer to reality. On board Atlantis is the initial Amateur Radio on the International Space Station equipment as well as other supplies needed by the Expedition 1 ISS crew members.

As part of the multinational ARISS project, the gear will be stowed aboard the ISS until the Expedition 1 crew comes aboard in late October. The Expedition 1 crew will consist of US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gaidzenko, whose call sign was not available.

Although astronaut Dan Burbank, KC5-ZSX, is aboard Atlantis, there will be no Amateur Radio operation from the shuttle or the ISS during this mission, STS-106. Atlantis will deliver the ARISS VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables.

The ARISS initial station gear will be installed temporarily aboard the Functional Cargo Block module and use an existing



antenna that's being adapted to support FM voice and packet on 2 meters but not on 70 cm. The ARISS gear will get a more-permanent home aboard the Service Module next year, once VHF and UHF antennas can be installed.

During the nearly two-week STS-106 shuttle mission, the seven-member crew will unload space station supplies from both the shuttle and from a Russian Progress cargo ship that's now docked at the ISS.

NASA and the Russian space organization Energia have signed agreements that

The Racine Megacycle Club

Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
Don Parkinson, KB9HAM, Secretary
c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 54301-0003
e-mail: w9udu@wi.net
Web: http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/
Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC • ARRL Affiliated
Providing communications for American Red Cross and ARES

From the editor: Last month, we omitted part of RMC's minutes, for which we apologize. We are printing the minutes again, this time in their entirety.

Meeting was brought to order on July 10th at 7:30 p.m. by President Robert Burgermeister. Bob summarized the Field Day that the club had approximately 700 contacts, of those 300 CW contacts, totaling around 1000 points. He mentioned that we were not after the contest points during Field Day. We were there to have fun and take advantage of the situation. Some improvements were implemented or noted:

- Rotor was fixed with new cable installed.
- Cleaned up the old junk coax around the base of the tower and found out that it was good.
- Randy, KB9UGG, was up on the vertical tower checking on the condition of the tower and trying to straighten the vertical. He found that the tower has some cracks and need to be replaced.
- The vertical antennae on top of the tower had problems. It will require disassembling it, fixing it or replacing it.

All of this was done before we began operating on Field Day. It was well worth the time and effort to have Field Day at the Red Cross Center and checking over the equipment. (We didn't miss the mosquitoes, either.) There wasn't a big turnout at Field Day, but we had around 20 people who participated. There were a few who stayed for the whole time.

We had one unfortunate situation during the event. An HT was stolen at the site. A police report has been filed. It was discussed at the board meeting a week ago and some sentiment was felt that the club feels responsible. President Robert asked the members present of how they felt as a club in the decision of the board of the club replacing it (Kenwood Model: THG71A Serial: 300279.)

The minutes were then read by Don Parkinson (KB9HAM), Secretary, and a motion to approve the minutes by Dan Miller, KA9OIL, and seconded by Tammy Gardner, KB9SXI. Minutes were approved by all.

The treasury report was stated by Greg Holding, KB9RMA. It was moved to accept the treasury report by Phil, KC9IS, and seconded by Dan, KA9OIL. All members present approved the treasury report.

Announcements

Greg, KB9RMA:

- Chicago FM Club is having a Radio Expo

2000 on September 23 and 24. More information can be found by going to the website <www.chicagofmclub.org>.

• Pres. Robert, W9EH: Picnic is planned for August. Checking by those present if anyone is interested. Stayed tuned and see what happens.

• September Meeting Program Topic: Rees has the owner of the tower on KR & 31 who will speak about his tower and what it took to get it up, along with all the trials and tribulations.

Old Business

Dan, KA9OIL, brought up the P.O. Box and whether anyone has checked for any incoming mail.

New Business

Dave, K9DQ: A Fox Hunt will be this Friday at 7 p.m., July 14th. Dan, KA9OIL, and Dave, K9DQ, will be the foxes. It will begin at the Regency Mall.

KA9OIL suggested that the club purchase a CW reader for next year for those new amateurs during Field Day practice.

President Robert Burgermeister, W9EH, asked for someone to entertain a motion that the club replace Greg's radio. A motion was presented by John Weeks, AA9XD. Seconded by Dan, KA9OIL. John, AA9XD, felt that anyone who should bring their equipment to a club meeting should not have to fear of bringing it to any function.

Dan, KA9OIL, stated that if it is replaced, two things should take place:

1. Place a warning that any time that someone brings their own equipment, they are responsible for the loss, and

2. Whether it falls into this budget this year or whether it will fall into a new budget for next year.

Cheryl Miller, WS9P, asked that another contact with police should be in order.

After all the discussion, it was moved to table the motion for the next meeting in August. That motion was given by Phil, KC9IS, and seconded by Bruce Geotzinger, KB9QZR. All were in favor to give it until one more meeting. Motion was carried.

A motion to close the meeting by Greg, KB9RMA, and seconded by Tammy, KB9SXI. Motion was carried, which set the stage for all to stay for tonight's program.

Program of Dxing by Dave Whitham, K9DQ, was shared after the business meeting. Dave shared his many years of experience of how we as beginners could succeed in contacting those outside of the U.S. It was very informative, and the club appreciates his time in sharing that with us.

FROM THE EDITOR....

A few observations about the summer now ending....

The special event station on the Great Circus Train - W9G - went as well as could be expected. Band conditions were awful on HF, but we did our best and logged 38 states, 3 Canadian provinces and a station in Baja California. Certificates are finally being processed, but it will take some more time until the job is done. There was a very long wait for ink carts for the Alps thermal wax printer I use. Al Johnson, AA7CS, came to my rescue, finding a few sources which could actually deliver them.

July 16 was interesting as a friend and I sneaked unnoticed on ham radio into Chippewa Falls for a Jan and Dean concert at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair. The Park Inn is a fine place, and I had nice visits with Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, and his nephew, and later at the motel with Jan, Dean, Jan's nice wife Gerti, Gary Griffin (keyboard), David Logeman (drums), Randell Kirsch (guitar) and one other guitarist whose name continues to elude me. N9GHZ and I had arranged simplex on 146.55 in advance. Mike and his nephew met Jan and Dean and we all had a great time. A friend and I shot four rolls of film; a book about the life of Jan Berry by Mark Moore is in the works and a couple of my pix will likely be in the book.

And - that's it! 4.5 nice days out of 366. Hey, I'll take those.

- K9ZZ



Space Shuttle Atlantis heads toward orbit and the International Space Station in an on-time launch September 8, 2000. Among supplies carried to the ISS aboard Atlantis and a Russian Progress cargo ship, already waiting for the shuttle's arrival, are the first Amateur Radio equipment for ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station).

From the ARISS web site/Will Marchant/KC6ROL

spell out the place of Amateur Radio aboard the ISS. A technical team, called ISS Ham, has been officially set up to serve as the interface to support hardware development, crew training and operations from space.

A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, has been issued for the ISS ham radio station.

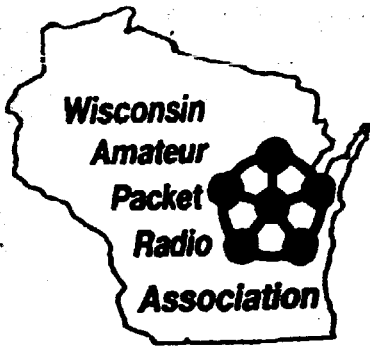
A German call sign, DL0ISS, also has been issued, and a US call sign will be applied for.

The \$60-billion International Space Station is being built jointly by the US, Russia, the European Space Agency, Canada and Japan. NASA this week (September 8) extended the deadline to complete the ISS to 2006. The ISS partners have agreed to spread out the assembly missions.

For more information about Amateur Radio on the ISS and SAREX, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

The ARRL Letter

**Join and support your
local radio and repeater
clubs!**



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 453 Cottage Grove Avenue • Green Bay, WI 54304 • e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - September, 2000
by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Hello again everyone, hope the summer has been good to you and that you are preparing for the slow ride taking us toward the cold time of the year.

There is little new to report this month. We are still waiting to hear about our fall WAPR meeting. As soon as the arrangements have been confirmed, we'll distribute word via the packet BBS network.

Speaking of networks, this month's article deals with our network - mixing it up with the Internet - and the future. This is one area that we in WAPR are very interested in and already have made baby steps toward the future of packet.

But there is much to be done. I am going to pitch for you to join WAPR, of course. But there are other things you can do as well. Most of all, you must want to do packet radio better, faster, and further than you've done it before. And you must want to do something about it, no matter how seemingly small.

The main reason for this particular topic - packet radio being reliant on the Internet - is an attempt to show why we should think twice about heading in this direction. Not only can we do things better, but we should not be reliant on the Internet to make packet radio better.

Now back to the membership pitch. WAPR needs your support to manage the Wisconsin Packet Network and perform frequency coordination duties, and plan for the future, as I have already pointed out. As a member of the Mid-America Coordination Council, we are the official packet radio frequency coordination body for the state of Wisconsin. But we can't do it without your help.

You can join with or without a subscription to the Badger State Smoke Signals. Membership is currently at \$20 per year with the BSSS, \$15 without. This is likely to increase soon, so if you want to get in on a real bargain, join before the cost of membership increases to help us deal with the rising costs our organization is encountering. You can mail off your dues to:

Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ P.O. Box 558 Ogema, WI 54459-0558

Make any checks payable to the Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association, or WAPR. And Thank-You for your support! And thanks for your patience about these membership pitches. It is one of the things we need to do to keep packet radio healthy in Wisconsin.

That's all for now. As always, send me your packet news and comments. I am always glad to see them.

Until next time, 73 from Andy.

Is the Internet the Packet Radio Answer? by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Over the course of the past few years, the Internet has made quite an impact in the world, and Amateur Radio is no exception. While the rest of the world deals with e-commerce, on-line this'n'that, IPOs and stock offerings, we concern ourselves with gateways, mail forwarding, and content. We think of the Internet as another way to extend our ability to communicate. It definitely has done this, and introduced us to a whole new set of circumstances and even problems.

The Packet Radio Networks and the Internet

Most of us think of Amateur Radio as having a packet network. That is correct, we do have one network. Actually, we have three others that are almost forgotten when we think of digital Amateur Radio. These other networks all operate independently of one another, occasionally crossing paths. In addition to the Amateur Packet "Store and Forward" BBS and Node network, the other three are the "amprnet", the "DX Cluster Network", and the APRS network.

All of these networks have one thing in common besides their Amateur origins. They all have a connection to the Internet at some point, even the BBS forwarding network.

Captive Ease

Using the Internet solves some real technical problems that plague amateur packet radio, and quite easily. Long haul links that were marginal or unreliable are replaced by wired counterparts, with consistent good results. Node lists are full, with plenty of good connections available. And it is (mostly) easier to configure a computer than to build a node, modify and tune up a radio, and climb a tower to install an antenna.

And it might well be too easy. While the Internet works well most of the time, it is subject to failure. Which means that we as Amateurs are held captive by another infrastructure we

can't control. Yes, forwarding mail via the Internet is easy and fast. Seeing a big node list with a bunch of foreign nodes on it is impressive, especially when you can actually make connections through them. And using the Internet to spot DX and to beacon your location makes these modes a heck of a lot more fun. However, there is a down side.

Internet Vulnerabilities

When new technology becomes well-established, people tend to take it for granted. In the early days of television, for example, transmitter outages, signal fade from distant stations, and poor quality pictures were accepted as "part of the deal". After all, everyone was so enamored with the fact that you could watch pictures cast out into the air from far away that a few interruptions were tolerable. Nowadays, the cable goes out and we are on the phone in seconds. The technology is no longer novel, we expect it to be there and part of our lives all the time.

Now we are in the Internet age. The novelty is no longer part of the Internet experience for most of us. In spite of the fact that a world-wide connection of computers is really a phenomenal accomplishment, it's all become routine to the general public. Hams being part of the general public, we are no exception.

The Internet, as accessible by you, is vulnerable in any number of ways. Some guy with a back hoe can cut a fiber-optic cable. A flood can cause massive problems with your local Internet Service Provider. And even though the Internet is robust and has multiple routes to destinations, one bad routing computer can wreak havoc with the network for at least a short time.

When we amateurs connect to this Internet, we get the good, the bad, and the unique. Not only are we subject to the usual (though infrequent) service interruptions, we are subject to other possibilities. Consider this problem that cropped up this summer, causing us to reassess our linkage to the Internet.

Hams, Spam and E-Mail

Most of us have, by now, heard the term "Spam". Not the lunch-meat, the E-Mail kind. Spam is unwanted E-Mail, generally sent by a commercial entity, to unsuspecting Internet users. Most spam is harmless, though annoying advertising. Some is of questionable content, advertising pornographic web-sites and

such. Other spam is downright fraudulent, conveying messages about various illegal schemes, or maybe a blatant rip-off.

Internet systems administrators have been getting wise to the tactics that spammers use to get their messages out. One such method is to use a "mail relay" - an computer on the Internet which accepts a message, and then retransmits it to its destination. Most mail on the Internet is transferred between computers directly. Spammers use the "Store and Forward" method.

They do this to circumvent "lock-outs", where a particular computer is kept from connecting to another for the purposes of transferring mail. If you have another computer that is not secured from spammers, the spamming computer can connect to it. This other computer then relays the spam mail to its destination, bypassing the lock-out.

Increasingly, hams have had quite a presence on the Internet with numerous gateways, nodes and BBS's appearing there. Hams by and large are a trusting lot, and as a result have not always been prompt in preventing spammers from using their computers to do their bidding. This summer, it became quite a problem. Spammers were using Amateur Radio Gateways connected to the Internet as mail relays, circumventing the lockouts that system's administrators had implemented. As a result, amateur gateway routing on the Internet was suspended until the problem could be resolved.

What Next?

This meant that mail forwarding, large node lists, and the like disappeared from the Internet. No mail on your local BBS (unless your local BBS was fed by an HF station). In effect, a large packet mail forwarding network was brought to its knees, unable to get things from point A to point B.

Lessons, Anyone?

It's obvious by now that we are in a vulnerable position. Not just because we can't see what's for sale or read the arguments in the debate messages, it's because we lost our connection with other hams via a digital mode.

If we are heavily reliant on the Internet and it is inaccessible, then what do hams do? After all, we are supposed to be the big emergency communications people. What do we do when

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24 HOURS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH AN ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTERST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

_____ YES: I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues will go to pay the subscription. Cost \$20.00.

_____ NO: I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke signals as part of WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00.

Complete and return this form with your check or money order — \$15.00 for membership only or \$20.00 for membership and Badger State Smoke Signals, made payable to W.A.P.R. to:

Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer,
W5000 SR 86
PO Box 558
Ogema, WI 54459

part of our digital network disappears? Unless you are set up with a backup system, there really is not much you can do.

In Wisconsin, we're lucky because we do not rely on the Internet to connect various parts of the state together. If we have not been able to do it via RF, we did without. A lot of areas of the state can gain access to the state Division of Emergency Management ham shack via packet, because we have an RF path down there. When it comes to BBS mail, we get our BBS feeds from stations that are - you guessed it - fed via the Internet.

In other parts of the country, things are different. Greg Jones, president of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) has advocated using the Internet to connect various parts of the Texas network that were once connected by radio. This was proposed not so much to replace existing RF links, but to replace ones that had "gone silent".

While the intent is good, and one can't fault Greg's desire to see the packet radio network complete and useful, our experience with the gateway shutdown should cause us to think very carefully about this. It shows that the Internet, from an Amateur point of view, is vulnerable and not what we need to carry out our duty as Emergency Communicators. While it is tempting with its speed and ease of connection, it is really not the best way to build an Amateur Radio Packet Network.

Solutions?

I hope you were able to see the June, 2000 issue of CQ magazine. There is a wonderful article written by a well-known ham amongst packeteers, Buck Rogers, K4ABT (along with a companion article written by a less well-known ham). What Buck proposes we do is to create our own radio-based Internet.

His logic is good, the time is right, and he puts forth one great vision for everyone to look at. He points out that the technology is there to make it all possible, all it takes is for hams to do it.

And it all begins with every packet operator - whether he or she is an occasional user, node operator, BBS operator, DX node operator, APRS operator, or system operator. It all has to start somewhere, and has to involve everybody. It can't be done overnight, and there is a lot of foundational work to be done first.

First, Standards have to be designed, based on an open digital radio protocol of the highest quality. Network standards have to be designed, and be compatible with the rest of the world, should we need to interconnect with it.

>From there we can start the process of band planning, and with an eye toward the future. We should make plans for satellite usage, eventually we may see a geostationary satellite to help in this network endeavor. We need to make this a country-wide, (possibly world-wide) band plan for microwave-length radio wave bands.

Then, as Buck suggests, make contact with the ham radio manufacturing industry so that we can truly have cutting-edge technology available for those of us (most of us) who don't have the time or facilities to make it.

>From that point on, more of the hard work gets under way - building the radio nodes that make up the network infrastructure. This will take time and there is no painless way to do it.

Buck points out that this network, if designed with high speed and high capacity in mind, can also be used to transfer audio. This could be an attractive resource for organizations such as Skywarn, RACES and ARES that need to link repeaters for long-distance communications.

Conclusion

Packet radio has lost a lot of operators in the last few years. Some had stations that were integral parts of the network. This means we lost a lot of our infrastructure and we have tried to use the Internet to replace it. At the same time, we have steadily lost the digital speed race to the wired network. This means there is little to retain experienced operators, nor much to entice newcomers. All of this points to the need for drastic action to be taken by the ham community, specifically the Amateur Packet Radio community. As I mentioned before, the ability to carry digital audio could gain the interest of the general ham radio public in addition to, we who spend a lot of time with packet radio.

Want to help? First, read Buck's article. Then, get together with other hams in your area. Exchange ideas, network with those who have the same desire, and help to get your local ham radio club involved.

Let the ARRL know of your point of view. The League should know about something that has such broad national implications. Talk this up with other hams, and get the word out.

I can also suggest joining WAPR. WAPR is committed to help build the digital radio network in this state. We want to be in on the future of packet radio, and have tried to make it come a little closer. But there is power in num-



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Leonard Wagner, N9XJG, Secretary
E10262 Hootowl Drive □ Baraboo, WI 53913



Steve Schulze, Club President, Called the August 1st 2000 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Inc. to order at 20:50.

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as published in BSSS, there was no July Meeting.

The treasurer's report indicated that we still have money.

Old Business:

The July picnic at Steve Schulze's house was a very good time.

Check-ins on the Sunday night net is a little on the slow side but steady.

Check it out, 147.315 repeater PL123. Sun. night at 20:00 check-in and listen to the ARRL Audio News.

New Business:

Loretta Kleefisch, wife of Art, W9WSS passed away July 22, 2000. It was decided to give a \$100 memorial contribution from the club in her name to the American Diabetes Association and St. Clare Hospital.

There will be a final organizational meeting for the

bers, and the more members we have, the more we will be listened to. If we get a dialog going, get standards and a band plan in place, we have a healthy start on making the New packet radio a reality.

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

South Milwaukee, WI - SMARC Hamfest
Stevens Point, WI - CWRA Swapfest
Waukesha WI - KMRA Swapfest
Waukesha WI - Midwinter Swapfest
Dubuque IA - Hamfest

See the Swapfest page for additional information and contact persons.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DUBUQUE, IOWA Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, N0KAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

ROCKFORD/LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Contact: Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail WB9QYV@aol.com

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From The Ground Wave, Saint Paul Radio Club

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.
Contact: Lou Sica Jr., (651) 481-8522 for info. Test Site: St. Paul Technical College 235 Marshall Ave. St Paul, MN

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.
Contact: Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143 for info. Test Site: Blaine City Hall 9150 Central Ave NE Blaine, MN Bloomington Office of Emergency Management

Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC)

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.
Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756 Test Site: Fire Station No. 1 94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S. Bloomington, MN

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.
Contact: Bill Martin, AI0D (612) 432-0438 Test Site:

August 12th Hamfest on August 10th at Steve Schulze's house at 19:00.

Set-up on Fri night at the Fair Grounds starting at 18:00 until we are finished.

Club talk around, during the hamfest will be on 145.31 simplex.

The meeting started late tonight because of the VE Testing session. The results:

Bill, KA9QFJ and Tom, N9PQJ are new Generals.

Jim N9LKY is a new Extra.

Steve N9UDO has a CSCE for the general written.

Congratulations to all on there upgrades!

Meeting adjourned at 21:10

The following members and guest's were present:

Steve Schulze	N9UDO Baraboo
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ Baraboo
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ Reedsburg
Duane Grotophorst	N9DG North Freedom
Jim Paul	N9LKY Baraboo
Fred Becker	W9KKM Wisconsin Dells
Rick Wegner	N9MME North Freedom
Steve Schwoegler	K9WD Wisconsin Dells

Hayes Community Center 14601 Hayes Road Apple Valley, MN

W5YI Group

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553 Test Site: Eden Prairie Library 479 Eden Prairie Drive Eden Prairie, MN

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.
Contact: Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678 Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station 8641 80th St., S Cottage Grove, MN.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to kebnet@palacenet.net.

RE-EVALUATE YOUR BELIEFS

From HAM RAG (Rockford ARA)

Have you ever told yourself or others that there is a limit to just how much one can accomplish in life? Here are some quotes showing how beliefs can be wrong:

"Everything that can be invented has been invented.", Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of patents, 1899.

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons.", Popular Mechanics, 1949.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.", Ken Olson, President, Chairman and founder of Digital Equipment, 1977.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody." Bill Gates. 1981.

Take time to reevaluate your beliefs. You may open a whole new world of possibilities, challenges, and relationships beyond your wildest dreams.

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SWAPFEST 00**

July 8, 2000
(Held every July)

American Legion Park
Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI
(414) 762-3235 Extension: Ask for Verne
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

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Manitowoc County Expo

Intersection of Hwys 42-151 and I-43 on Cty Highway R

Saturday, May 13, 2000

For more information, call:

Red, N9GHE • (920) 84-3733

Dick, N9QFY • (920) 682-9264

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North Shore Radio Club / Box 1066 Highland Park, IL / 60035

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HAMFEST 2001

Saturday, June 9, 2001

For Information Contact:

Jim Staats KG9RA at 715-838-9108

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

<http://www.ecarc.org> w9eau@ecarc.org

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Contact us or keep
checking our web
site for details on
upcoming events.



Ozaukee Radio Club
**23RD ANNUAL RADIO AND
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Saturday, May 5, 2001

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club
W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg, WI 53012

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Steve Schulze, N9UDO
(608)356-2313/356-4777
<http://members.baraboo.com/sschulze/hamfest.htm>

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX
(608)643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 27, 2001 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT: Steve Hart, KA9OMC 715-665-2374
E616 810th Ave. Knapp, WI 54749

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